



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

62 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2011

Volume 62 Number 5

www.phil-mont.org

May 2012

Time for May Flowers!

No, not the ship!

This month brings Mother's Day and Memorial Day

A man, A cat, and a Slinky antenna!



Jack, K3CHR in his new digs with Leon



<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (12) W3MHP(12) KB3SJS(12) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) ND3B(13) KB3IV(A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coar: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com
Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller jencaz29@gmail.com
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

Well hello spring 2012! This year the seasons seem to be on a high speed freight train to get here. Mostly everything from the birds and the bees to fishing is way ahead of schedule. After those hot temperatures we had in early April and those cool days at the end of the month I'm sure the warm weather is here to stay. Warm weather also brings the hamfests and public service events. The last MS Walks will be on Sunday May 6th at Ocean City, Voorhees, Medford Lakes and Parvin Park. The next really cool event is the weekend of June 9-10: the "MS Mud Rukus" in Newtown Square. It's a really fun 2day event that has really exploded all over the country. It's a military training style event that tests the true mettle of its participants while they raise money for "The MS Cause." If you're free come on out even if it's for only one day, we can really use the help. There's food, fun and you can sharpen your operating skills. Contact either me or Carmen KE3QB. It's a chance to sharpen up just before Field Day.

Speaking of field day, if you've never done it give it a try- you'll wonder how you ever survived all these years without it. It's a great time to get together with fellow Phil-Monters, have some great food and get in some good operating to boot.

And last but not least there's the City to Shore bike tour the weekend of Sept 29-30. This premier event includes dinner in Ocean City and a free room if you sign up in time.

It's a great event and it gives you a chance to help in the fight against MS.

Well that's it for now, hope to see you all at the May

meeting. Till then good health and clear airwaves!

73, Bob KB2ERL

***Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

May Birthdays

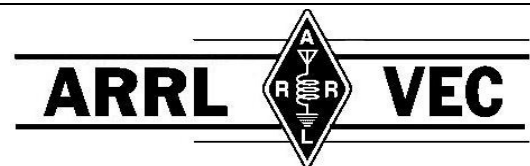
02 Audrey Uebelhoer - KB3UFX
05 Paul Policarpo - N3PP

15 Doug Crompton - WA3DSP
James Kavanagh - WQ3H
17 Herb Scott - N3OLK

28 Peggy Kaufmann - KB3DID
29 Maggie Leber - K3XS
30 Bill Chedeville - W3GQD

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:
84 FULL PAID MEMBERS
8 FAMILY MEMBERS
1 YOUTH MEMBER
1 HONORARY MEMBER



***The VE evening session is Thursday the
24th this month.***

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary

PMRC Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2012

President Bob, KB2ERL opened the meeting at 19:55 hrs and asked for reports.

Treasurer Dick, W3RM reports the club's finances are in good shape with most or all dues paid and that he just sent a check for \$4,000 to FAR for this year's PMRC scholarships, our 11th year.

Jim informs us that the VE session this month is on the 26th and also that the question pool for the extra class test will be changed after June 30th.

ND3B reminds us that the deadline for Blurb submissions is the 20th but that's flexible.

Bill, W3AOK reports that the offsite units are in good working order and there are no repeater problems. Al, W3STW requested their locations (Villanova and Bucks Co.) and it was agreed that this general information should be added to the website.

Rick, ND3B handled the minutes up until 20:12 when Jen, KB3MIV, arrived.

KB3MIV counted 20 people attending the meeting.

KB2ERL reminded everyone of field day plans. KB3IV announced the dates of Friday, June 22 to Sunday, June 24, 2012. If you want to order field day garb it is suggested to do it now because ARRL always runs out of supplies. Band captains were discussed. 20m, KB3SJS and KB3SJT; 40m cw, W3RM; 75m, KE3QB and KB2ERL; 15m, KA3IRJ and family; digital, N3CB; satellite, W3STW. There are a few others available. KB2ERL spoke about the coast guard radio nets. He also mentioned there is an interesting booklet available from the government, NIFOG (National Interoperability Field Operations Guide), it is available online at dhs.gov. It covers all national emergency management frequencies available. W3RM spoke about a recent contact to 5TOJL from the country of Mauritania, which is a North African

country. It is the only ham operator in that country. W3STW introduced the presenter of the program for the evening, K3ZKO. There was a slide presentation and discussion of, "Living with Lightning."

The meeting ended at approximately 2120.

de Jen, KB3MIV

Bob Thomas, W3NE



Professor Bob

PHIL-MONT'S FIRST FIELD DAY

Times have changed!

Bob Thomas

For the first ten or fifteen years of Phil-Mont's existence the primary focus of the club as an organization, and of most its individual members for that matter, was (trumpets please): *Mobile Radio!* Some members operated on the HF bands with AM or CW as long as they could avoid TVI, but the club itself concentrated on activities related strictly to mobile operation. The very reason for forming the club in the first place was to escape rampant TVI problems at home by operating from cars where TVI was fleeting and blame hard to establish. A lot of members had all-band HF capability with their mobile rigs and humongous antennas, but the real attraction was Phil-Mont Channel-1 on 29.493.2 Mc. where a contact could be had almost any time, if not with another mobile then with one of the thirty or more hams, both local and DX, who monitored the frequency at home. There was no lack of organized activity, whether for the many CD exercises held then, marshaling

parades, scout activities, transmitter hunts, balloon chasing, club trips and dinner-dances, and mobile-related technical programs at meetings. To be brutally realistic, even if there had been an internet then, those dyed-in-the-wool mobile hams would not have tolerated its intrusion over a 100% mobile radio contact.

It came as a surprise to me as a new member in 1952 that the topic of Field Day participation was raised at all during the March meeting. There was the anticipated objection that FD was not really a mobile activity so we should not dilute club resources and members' efforts by getting involved. The other, eventually dominant half of the debate was that FD prepared us for emergencies, so it definitely was interrelated with mobile radio. The Ayes won and then when it came to deciding on a Field Day Chairman, old-time members snickered as they all suddenly pointed to the newest, unsuspecting club member: W3QZO (my dreary former call).

A great thing about Phil-Mont before mobile radio became commercialized and mundane, and when most members were youngish and brimming with energy, was that no matter who was nominally "in charge" of an event, there was a rip tide of enthusiasm that carried it along – everybody contributed without being asked – nobody "stood around." Thus the job of the FD chairman was simply to come up with a basic plan, details to be filled-in at a Midmonth Meeting. Before the club was incorporated, informal monthly meetings were held at a member's home to discuss matters too cumbersome to handle at a regular membership meeting with forty or more attending. There was no distinction between ordinary members and officers at Midmonths; anybody could attend and participate. With that open representation it didn't take long to agree on bands we would use, sources of equipment, location, and a rough operator schedule. What follows here is from an imperfect memory after a sixty-year gap, but this how I remember events and I apologize in advance for any deviations from actual fact that might have crept in.

Somebody had arranged with a farmer for use of a few acres of his land on Potshop Road in East Norriton, just above Germantown Pike. Rent for the

land was a bottle of Jack Daniels. We went out the week before Field Day to look at the property which was smooth and flat but with waist-high hay all over. Somebody showed up with a rotary mower (see what I mean by a rip-tide) and proceeded to mow paths through the hay to locations we had chosen for our main and secondary tents, put-put generator, two HF antenna masts and a short tower for a 2-meter beam.

On "The Day" a crowd appeared, led by Jim Spencer in his Chevy truck with its built-in tool boxes. Out came a 2x3 stake Jim had sawed to a point on one end, then the arm that had pounded-in a million 20d nails proceeded to drive the stake into the ground to support an electric service box Jim had pre-wired to feed power from the put-put to each operating position. Two HF antenna masts went up. They were surplus Army sectional tubular steel telescoping masts about thirty feet high, each with six guys. As each mast was raised, it contorted into an alarming S-curve as shouts went out to "Loosen up there. Pull yours in tighter. Ohmigod!" The masts eventually were straightened out and we had our 80/40-meter flat top. The short tower was next with an Alliance TV rotator on top to turn a 5-element 2-meter vertical beam copied from an Abbott Labs product. When those jobs were completed, tents were erected and we set up tables inside for equipment. We had a Johnson Viking-II 100Watt CW/AM transmitter and Matchbox antenna tuner, Collins 75A-3 receiver, 20Watt 2-meter AM transmitter, and a 2-meter converter feeding a Hallicrafters S-40. We used an Elmac mobile station for 10-meters but stayed in the two-transmitter class.

As bedlam broke out at the start of the contest we were on the air with 80M CW, W3IW at the key and Rollie, W3PWG keeping the log and Stations-Worked List; no laptops, no automatic logging, but it was still fun. Two-meter AM activity was pretty high at the beginning of the contest and we had an altitude advantage so we did pretty well, even though most rigs were rock-bound, until new stations began to dry up. When things cooled off on 80 we changed to 75-meter phone or 40 CW but at no time did we set the world on fire with contacts!

And so it went through the night, alternating between CW and phone, depending on who was available, with time out for a thunder storm to blow through. Some of us stayed all night, dozing off in one of the tents or bent up on the back seat of a car or on a station wagon floor. The traditional Field Day breakfast came none too soon on Sunday morning, I think made by Lyle, our PTC trolley motorman. W3DSG ran the 10-on-10 Net, picking up most PMRC members and several other local FD stations, then interest in racking up a big score waned as whole families began to come out to see what was going on. At that point Field Day segued into a big social event and I'm not even sure we waited for the official closing before beginning to knock down. There was one unfortunate incident with that when one of the fittest guys shimmied up the remaining telescoping mast to release the locking pin. When the upper section dropped down, it caught the web of his hand at thumb and forefinger between the two tubes, causing a nasty injury. Aside from that we went away happy, with "priceless" memories, a craving for sleep, and an FD score much closer to the bottom than the top – not that it mattered.

On to Field Day 2012!

New Member Application

The following radio amateur has applied for membership in PMRC

Raymond C. Kiesel - Ray - K3RIZ
1608 Mulberry Road
Flourtown, PA 19031
Home: 215-872-6028 (cp)
D.O.B. - 08-23-47
License Class: Extra Class (Exp. 09/24/17)
Occupation: Retired engineer
Email: rickiesel@concentric.net
ARRL Member (Exp. 03/2013)
Active: Mobile VHF/UHF; HF, all bands & modes.

de W3RM

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

Some pictures from the April meeting





Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous *solid braid* perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET

SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS

CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT

WU3I@ARRL.NET



FOR SALE - GREAT DEAL

Each HT below has had light use and comes with all manuals, accessories and original packaging.

-Yaesu VX-7R Black 50/144/440 MHz dual band 5 Watt -- If purchased new at HRO \$369 - on sale for **was \$200**

Now \$175

-Kenwood TH-F6A dual band 144/220/440 MHz 5 watt -- If purchased new at HRO \$324 on sale for **was \$175 now \$150**

Again, all are in great condition. Feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Bob Rose N3TWO

email: N3TWO@arrl.net



Congratulations to Bill and Kristen Campbell on their 10th wedding anniversary on the 11th!

May you have many more years of happiness.

Love, Dad.

(It's good to be the editor)

May at Phil-Mont

2nd Wed BoD Meeting
6th Sun WU3I NCS
8th Tues VE Day, 1945
9th Wed General Club Meeting
13th Sun Mother's Day
KB3SJS NCS
20th Sun KB3IV NCS
24th Thurs VE test session
27th Sun W3MHP NCS
28th Mon Memorial Day

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

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